

WEST COAST GOVERNORS ALLIANCE on OCEAN HEALTH

CALIFORNIA OREGON WASHINGTON

Executive Committee Annual Meeting
January 9 – 10, 2014
Billy Frank, Jr. Conference Center
Portland, OR

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The West Coast Governors Alliance on Ocean Health Executive Committee and partners convened on January 9 and 10, 2014 in Portland, Oregon to discuss regional ocean and coastal health issues and priorities; the existing capacity of the regional ocean partnership including WCGA operations, roles and responsibilities; a recommitment to the WCGA by state and federal co-leads; and steps to update the Action Plan.

Agenda items included WCGA Current Work and Updates with a focus on progress achieved by Action Coordination Teams, tribal outreach updates and an update on the National Ocean Policy and the Regional Planning Body; WCGA Operations including the capacity of the WCGA, NOAA grant obligations, a discussion on a recommitment to the ROP; and existing responsibilities including a plan for updating the Action Plan, convening a West Coast Ocean Summit, and local government engagement.

The Executive Committee made a number of decisions and action items based on the above agenda, which are summarized below. Decisions were made by consensus as stated in the WCGA charter.

Supporting meeting materials and presentations are also available.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISIONS:

Climate Change Action Coordination Team Decisions:

- In 2013, the Executive Committee stated that resiliency and adaptation to climate change and coastal hazards is a high priority for the west coast. It gave direction to the Climate Change ACT to review and refocus remaining work plan tasks. In response, the Climate Change ACT came up with a list of six potential priority actions (See Meeting Summary for a list and description of projects). The ACT asked the ExComm to identify its top priority projects for the Climate Change ACT's work plan.
- ExComm identified 2 priority projects for the Climate Change ACT's action plan and supporting other activities within #1, 2 and 3 to provide input to the President's Climate Preparedness and Resilience Task force.
 - (1) A Hazard Map. This decision-support tool and maps would assist in assessing hazards from sea-level rise and storms along the West Coast.
 - (2) Funding Catalog. This catalogue will be a database to inform a broad range of entities (state and local governments, tribes, etc) on a variety of funding sources for climate change work on the west coast related to sea-level rise, storms, and shoreline change
 - (3) Either Monitoring (Option #2) or Federal Policy Alignment document (Option #3). This decision is TBD based on more ACT discussion.
- In addition, the Executive Committee discussed the proposed Climate Change Adaptation Accord. Instead of it being in the ACT workplan, the state leads will work with the federal Climate Adaptation Task Force to make connections to adaptation issues identified for the west coast

WCGA Operations Decisions:

- Amend the WCGA Charter with a new structure and process, establishing a new body consisting of senior staff from each state and key federal agencies to act as a liaison between the ACT's and the ExComm. This body of senior staff would meet (via conference calls) on a monthly basis. Calls with ExComm would be arranged as needed for decisions requiring ExComm approval (when higher-level policy input is necessary).

Funding Decisions:

- FY '12 0183
 - Ask for a 6 – 12 month no-cost extension
- FY '12 0179
 - Amended milestone schedule approved; will ask for a 6- 12 month extension
 - Move \$40,000 for coordinator to other item under scope of work (i.e. support the Climate Change and Marine Debris ACTs, facilitator). Details to be worked out with the WCGA staff and project manager.
 - Current grant funding for facilitator moved from supporting Action Plan meetings to supporting Ocean Summit.
 - Redistributing money budgeted for 5 ACT meetings to supporting the work of the Climate Change and Marine Debris ACTs (already approved by ExComm). These ACTs will propose how they will use the money to ExComm, and it will be split evenly between both ACTs.
 - Process for determining how to spend \$ for support for ACTs and updating Action Plan TBD.
- Approved pursuing other funding outside NOAA ROP –as a coordinated effort by WCGA on behalf of all ACTs and WCGA priorities
- Approved entering into an agreement with the Coastal States Stewardship Foundation to serve as the WCGA's fiscal sponsor for any funding beyond the FY'14 NOAA ROP grant.

ACTION ITEMS for WCGA staff (Kim and Todd):

- Amend charter for ExComm to approve (Kim)
- Resend the memo of ACT restructure to the Ocean Awareness and Literacy ACT and address their specific questions. (Kim)
- Explore potential new roles for the Ocean Awareness and Literacy ACT, such as working as a liaison between other priority ACTs, and being a resources for literacy and communications strategies/materials. (Kim, Todd)
- Implement a process for responding to Letters of Support, noting that support for projects that advance WCGA and the ACTs work plans should be prioritized. (Kim, Todd)
- Develop and articulate criteria for giving Letters of Support on website, and having clear language that articulates who this group is and what they represent. (Kim, Todd)
- Kim will (with the help of tribal outreach partners) compile talking points for approaching tribes about involvement in Ocean Summit

ACTION PLAN DISCUSSION/ NEXT STEPS for ExComm, ExComm staff and WCGA staff

- **Planning Local Government Workshops :** ExComm staff will need to discuss the role and objectives of the local government workshops. Each state will plan and implement a local workshop that is located within their respective states. Kim will work with senior staff to craft a framework for each workshop and state leads will participate in their state's workshop. Local government workshops will help inform the Action Plan updates, and identify a role WCGA and its ACTs can play at the local level.
- **Combining ACT work plans with WCGA Action Plan:** The group proposed that the recently updated ACT work plans become integrated into the WCGA Action Plan.
- **Develop a generic presentation about each ACT:** The meeting participants identified a need for a basic presentation about the WCGA and its ACTs. This will help with consistency in information and messaging across the local workshops.
- **Updating the Action Plan:** Assess work that is on-going and current to determine if we are meeting goal and priorities. In addition from the local government workshops and the West Coast Ocean Summit, the WCGA will be able to incorporate the priorities that are identified by west coast tribes and local governments into an updated action plan. Additional discussions around timeline and products of the action plan are needed (i.e. can the WCGA finish an updated Action Plan by March 2015, which grants a 6 month extension, and what products are needed in the short-term vs. long-term vision of the Action Plan.
- **Ocean Summit approach and planning:** The goal of the Ocean Summit goal is to help inform the state and federal co-leads what ocean resource priorities are for west coast tribes. Summit topics will include issues of shared importance around ocean, coastal health and uses (not limited to marine planning). WCGA and tribal partners will need to resolve how to approach tribes about their involvement in Ocean Summit. The ExComm agreed that the summit can provide a "clean slate" venue where tribes can articulate their vision of partnership and collaboration with states for moving forward on pertinent ocean issues; that the tribes should help shape content of the summit, and the role of the WCGA is to provide support and sponsorship. State co-leads will approach tribes from a government-to-government perspective; not necessarily on behalf of WCGA, and planning will take place with other sponsors to include Smith River Rancheria (they received NOAA ROP funding to assist), Point 97, Jacque Hostler, and others to be identified as the planning progresses (most likely tribes who show interest in being involved).
- **Sustainable financing:** Moving forward, the ExComm noted that there would need to be more conversations around finding sustainable and alternate sources of funding to support both the functioning of the ACTs and the WCGA as a whole. This includes identifying existing relationships with funders and exploring alternative funding options.
- **Charter amendments:** The group identified two charter amendments. The first is adding a procedure for replacing ACT members who leave the group and electing replacement ACT members. The group decided on a procedure that involves ACT chairs sending their recommendations for replacements to the senior staff group and then to ExComm for

final approval. The second amendment was adding a new structure and process for streamlining communication and decision-making between the ACTs, the ExComm staff and the ExComm state leads (see "Capacity of WCGA" Day2, January 10th, 2014).

MEETING SUMMARY

Thursday – January 9th, 2014

INTRODUCTION

Ed Bowles welcomed the Executive Committee to Oregon, and highlighted the importance of the WCGA as a partnership to address timely and significant ocean issues. He called for a re-energization of the WCGA, noting that a priority in moving forward will be diversifying funding sources.

ACT UPDATES

















West Coast Ocean Data Portal ACT (Todd Hallenbeck, Steve Steinberg, Andy Lanier)

- The Ocean Data Portal will be ready to launch in mid-January, 2014.
- The ACT *has* begun working on a marine debris use-case in conjunction with the Marine Debris ACT, which will serve as an initial example of how to apply the portal and use its tools and data to inform a specific ocean management issues.
- The Ocean Data Portal ACT hopes to expand the Portal's application to by promoting its usage to federal agencies, and other ACTs (specifically the Climate Change ACT), and is looking to ExComm for guidance and strategy in this expansion and promotion.

Climate Change ACT Update (Becky Smyth, Jeff Weber)

- The Climate Change ACT identified six proposed priority actions for their action plan to fund and develop, and looked to ExComm to help select 3 of the proposed actions to pursue (See Action Section).
- The priority actions included:
 - Policy/Governance Actions: (1) Climate Change Adaptation Accord, (2) Monitoring Infrastructure, and (3) Alignment of Government Adaptation Efforts
 - Product-driven Actions: (1) West Coast Sea Level and Storm Mapping, (2) Relative Sea Level Rise Projections, and (3) Funding Catalogue for West Coast activities related to sea-level rise, storms, and shoreline change
- John Stein recommended that Climate Change ACT coordinate with IOOS Regional Associations in Hazard Map development and the Climate Science Centers (they have money for SLR projects).

Climate Change ACT presentation and supporting memo available with meeting materials. See below for a summary table of potential priority actions identified by the Climate Change ACT and factors to consider.

	1. Accord	2. Monitoring	3. Alignment	4. Hazard Map	5. SLR Projections	6. Funding Catalogue
Significant action by...	ExComm	Both	ACT	ACT	ACT	ACT
People Needed						
Intern/Fellow Needed						
Funds Needed	\$	\$\$	\$\$	\$\$\$	\$\$\$	\$
Total Needed	Low	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	Low
Feasibility	Low/Medium	Medium	High	Medium	High	High
Connections	Medium	Low	High	High	Medium	Low
Relevance to EO/Task Force						
WCGA ownership						

Marine Debris ACT (Nir Barnea)

- The Marine Debris ACT is continuing to organize the West Coast Marine Debris Coalition, which will help to further the ACT's priorities.
- John Stein will coordinate with the ACT to explore funding through grants from the Japanese government for Tsunami Marine Debris, and NOAA's Marine Debris Program.
- The Marine Debris ACT is looking to ExComm for continued financial support, and to help address continued challenges: 1) Greater involvement, participation by ExComm state representatives in development of products and priorities, 2) Strategizing ways to combat fatigue within the ACT, 3) Making approval processes quicker and more efficient, and 4) Help in proving and promoting the ACT's relevance and value in addressing the issue of marine debris.

Ocean Acidification (Cat Kuhlman)

- Highlighted Washington State's Blue Ribbon Panel on Ocean Acidification, and the West Coast Ocean Acidification & Hypoxia Panel (convened by the Ocean Science Trust, with participating scientists from WA, OR, CA, and British Columbia).
- California, Oregon, Washington governors and British Columbia premier signed a joint letter to President Obama and Canadian Prime Minister encouraging them to address ocean acidification.

Renewable Energy update (Sara Gultinan, Paul Klarin)

- The Renewable Energy ACT continues to serve as an important venue for parties involved in west coast offshore renewable energy researchers to come together and share information and insights.

IEA Communication ACTS (Steve Rumrill)

- The structural hierarchy of the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) and 6 regional subset IEAs works well. NOAA's IEA should continue to fill spatial data gaps, especially those lacking NMS.
- The IEA ACTS is looking to the ExComm to help identify the IEA ACT's role as a communication ACT, and how to distinguish their work from NOAA/NMS's IEA.

Seafloor mapping ACT (Sam Johnson remotely)

- Sam Johnson provided an update on significant seafloor mapping activities in each state and noted that Seafloor Mapping ACT has benefited from its relationship and connection to the WCGA, especially in seeking funds for projects. Having this be a priority on the West Coast provides a boost for grant applications and other funding sources.

Ocean Awareness and Literacy ACT (Kim McIntyre)

- Ocean Awareness and Literacy ACT is looking for guidance on defining their role, relationships to the other ACTs.
- A potential role identified for the Ocean Awareness and Literacy ACT is to serve as a communication arm for both the Marine Debris and Climate Change ACTs in communicating their work and products.

NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY/REGIONAL PLANNING BODY UPDATE

- John Stein and John Hansen, the NOAA contractor working on building relationships for the RPB, provided an update on the RPB process. The National Ocean Council provides flexibility in how an RPB can be structured, implemented, and function.
- **Action: See RBP Discussion (Day 2, January 10th)**

GOVERNANCE COORDINATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

- The Governance Coordination Committee (GCC) advises the National Ocean Council on the implementation of the National Ocean Policy. It is comprised of representatives from state, tribal and local government.
- Ed Bowles (OR) is the current representative for the West Coast on the GCC. The current focus of the GCC is to reconstitute the GCC's Advisory Committee, find a new director, and reconvene. Bowles reiterated the sentiment that the RPB should be designed by the West Coast states in a way that facilitates the realization of their own objectives and priorities.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION EXECUTIVE ORDER

- Susan Ruffo from the White House's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) joined the meeting remotely to give an update on the President's Executive Order on Climate Adaptation. The current interest within the CEQ is to make climate change science more available to the public, and more user-friendly, i.e. provided in ways that are meaningful and useful.
- The CEQ is looking to the WCGA for input to the Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience (Governors of Washington and California are members) on:
 1. Aligning its federal programs to support the priorities with WCGA
 2. Translating national-level reports into meaningful data and information for west coast states.
 3. Mutually leveraging resources between WCGA and CEQ to provide guidance to the Climate Action Plan and the Task Force to inform issues at the federal level.

TRIBAL COLLABORATION UPDATES:

- Betsy Daniels moderated a panel on current tribal outreach efforts for marine planning on the West Coast. The intention of the panel was to better coordinate the many connected activities related to tribal marine planning, including:
 - Better sharing and coordination among tribes
 - More capacity and skill building among tribes
 - Working with federal agencies to identify best ways to engage tribes in marine planning with regards to future RPB.
- *Jacque Hostler* (Trinidad Rancheria) provided updates from her work plan under the FY'12 NOAA ROP grant award from WCGA.
 1. Completed a Tribal listserv for tribes in CA, OR, and WA.
 2. Completed a matrix of tribal interests in CA and the evaluation of a consultation policy.
 3. Completed a website that links to various state and federal agencies

4. A tribal advisory body was not convened due to multiple reasons. The money that was allotted for this task will be returned to NOAA.
She noted that while there has been interest and energy in marine planning within tribes, there is a lack of funding for participation and resources.
- *Megan Rocha* (Smith River Rancheria) – provided updates on Smith River Rancheria’s marine planning initiatives. The Rancheria has been proactive in building governance capacity around marine resources, received NOAA ROP funding to build this capacity. NOAA ROP work plan primary objectives include:
 1. Indigenous Ocean Science Forum (held in April, 2013).
 2. Develop intertribal organization and framework for MSP.
 3. Tool to assess tribal GIS capacity, build tribal marine data standards committee.
 4. Data Framework: Looking at how to integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge
 - *Shaunna McCovey* (Point 97) – *working through Ecotrust/Point 97* to assess tribal capacity with the NOP, beginning regional-level tribal coordination to develop individual Marine Plans. In February 2014, the West Coast Regional Tribal Partnership will meet to discuss Marine Planning and hear from British Columbia First Nations about their Marine Planning process (lessons learned).

OCEAN SUMMIT PLANNING DISCUSSION

- The original Ocean Summit goal was to help inform WCGA Action Plan update and next-generation ocean resource priorities for tribes.
- The ExComm amended the goal for the summit to provide a “clean slate” venue where tribes can articulate their vision of partnership and collaboration with states for moving forward on pertinent ocean issues. State co-leads will approach tribes from a government-to-government perspective; not necessarily on behalf of WCGA
- The ExComm agreed that tribes should help shape content of the summit; WCGA should provide support and sponsorship.
- Summit topics will include issues of shared importance around ocean, coastal health and uses (not limited to marine planning).
- WCGA and tribal partners will need to resolve how to approach tribes about their involvement in Ocean Summit.
- Planning will take place with other sponsors to include Smith River Rancheria (they received NOAA ROP funding to assist), Point 97, Jacque Hostler, and others to be identified as the planning progresses.
- **Action: Kim will compile talking points for approaching tribes about involvement in Ocean Summit.**

RECOMMITMENT TO WCGA:

- All states re-committed, with the suggestion that WCGA align more closely with the Pacific Coast Collaborative. There was discussion around the connection given that PCC does not currently have federal agency involvement or representation.
- Federal agencies that re-committed include NOAA, BOEM, and EPA. NOAA's lead, John Stein stressed the importance of facilitating more tribal participation with the WCGA moving forward. EPA asked for feedback from ExComm as to how best engage with the WCGA.

CAPACITY OF WCGA:

- It was noted that the capacity of WCGA is limited. In an effort to streamline communication and decision-making, the group decided to amend the WCGA Charter with a new structure and process, establishing a new body consisting of senior staff from each state to act as a liaison between the ACTs and the ExComm. This body of senior staff would meet on a monthly basis. Calls with ExComm would be arranged as needed for decisions requiring ExComm approval.
- **Actions:**
 - Amend charter for ExComm to approve.
 - Kim to resend the memo of ACT restructure to the Ocean Awareness and Literacy ACT and address their specific questions.
 - Explore potential new roles for the Ocean Awareness and Literacy ACT, such as working as a liaison between other priority ACTS, and being a resources for literacy and communications strategies/materials.
 - Implement a process for responding to Letters of Support, noting that support for projects that advance WCGA and the ACTs work plans should be prioritized.
 - Develop and articulate criteria for giving Letters of Support on website, and having clear language that articulates who this group is and what they represent.

GRANT UPDATE:

- **Fiscal agent sponsorship update:** The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will continue to be WCGA's fiscal sponsor for current grants. The Coastal States Stewardship Foundation will formalize its partnership with WCGA and help determine funding strategies for and for future grant applications and awards.
- **Grant status updates:**
 - **FY'11:** WCGA is finalizing its grant status reports for fiscal year 2011 with NOAA staff. Some funds from Jacque Hostler's tribal workplan for fiscal year 2011 were returned to NOAA.
 - **FY'12 0183:** ExComm approved an extension of this grant for 6-12 months. Kim will work with NOAA staff to see what length of an extension is appropriate. Not

much progress has been made on this grant due to a gap in the coordinator position. An extension will be required to complete all of the tasks.

- **FY'12 0179:** ExComm approved an extension of this grant to account for the revised timeline for the West Coast Ocean Tribal Summit. This extension will also move 40,000 for coordinator to support the Climate Change and Marine Debris ACTS and for a facilitator for the Ocean Summit.
 - Move 40k for coordinator to other item under existing scope of work (Ocean Summit, Action Plan updates, Admin, ACT travel, more meetings, 3 local gov. workshops).
 - Determine budget for Ocean Summit and whether more funds are needed.
 - CC ACT to have conversations about budget, come back to ExComm.
 - MD Database to request funding?
 - **DECISION: Priority = convener/facilitator funds to be used for Ocean Summit. Rest will support these 2-3 ACT's. The process and amount of redistribution of funds TBD by WCGA staff and approved by ExComm.**

ACT DECISION-MAKING/ACTIONS.

West Coast Ocean Data Portal Act

- The Ocean Data Portal will launch formally on January 21st, and will continue to develop and strengthen its communication and outreach strategy.
- The ACT is looking for guidance from the ExComm on seeking funding and identifying funding sources outside of the NOAA ROP grant. The Ocean Data Portal ACT noted that partnering with the Climate Change ACT could leverage funding.
- **Action:** ExComm approved a no-cost extension to Grant 0183.

Marine Debris ACT

- The Marine Debris ACT is hoping to get more state representation in the ACT.
- John Stein (NOAA) will connect with the Japanese government's Japanese Tsunami Marine Debris Funding Assistance Program, as a means of gaining more financial support and participate in an international collaboration.
- The Marine Debris ACT will continue to coordinate with marine debris task forces and working groups at the state level, as well as with the Pacific Coast Collaborative.
- **Action items:**
 - a. Get approval from ExComm of the Marine Debris Database Intern.
 - b. Develop a way to expedite the decision-making process and getting approval for Marine Debris ACT actions (such as hiring an intern, etc.).

Climate Change ACT:

- The Climate Change ACT will continue to explore mechanisms engage in the climate change policy arena as appropriate.
- Possible pathways for the WCGA leadership to explore include: incorporating ocean acidification in the updated action plan, aligning more closely with the Pacific Coast Collaborative, and working with state governor's offices for guidance and direction in prioritizing/developing tools that are useful for states.
- ExComm identified 3 priority projects for the Climate Change ACT's action plan. These include:
 - a. A Hazard Map
 - b. Funding Catalog
 - c. Either Monitoring (Option #2) or Federal Policy Alignment document (Option #3)
- *See Meeting Summary Day 1 for more details on priority actions*
- **Action item:** ExComm will re-visit crafting a climate change adaptation accord when appropriate
- **Action Item:** Climate Change ACT to draft detailed work plan based on ExComm priorities. Timeline TBD by the CC ACT.

RPB DISCUSSION

- ExComm discussed the potential structure and function of the West Coast RPB:
 1. The RPB would serve as a coordinating body of the various sub-regional/local coastal marine planning efforts and priorities along the west coast.
 2. The RPB would facilitate and leverage the application of various west coast research to marine planning endeavors at the sub-regional level and effort.
 3. The RPB will have tribal participation in its structure, and prioritize tribal engagement/consultation in its processes.
- NOAA identified June 2014 as a potential date for having a preliminary design, work-plan and set of priorities established for a West Coast RPB.

ATTENDEES:

ExComm State and Federal Leads	ACT Chairs/Co-Chairs & POCs
Barminski, Joan (DOI/BOEM)	Barnea, Nir (MD ACT)
Ed Bowles <i>for Goldfarb, Gabriela</i> (OR)	Guiltinan, Sara (REACT)
Kuhlman, Cat (CA)	Klarin, Paul (REACT)
Lynn, Brian (WA)	Lanier, Andy (WCODP ACT)
Reichgott, Tina (EPA) <i>for Sam Ziegler</i>	Rumrill, Steven (IEA ACT)
Stein, John (DOC/NOAA)	Steinberg, Steve (WCODP ACT)
	Weber, Jeff (CC ACT)

Staff	Sea Grant Fellows	Guests
Hallenbeck, Todd (WCGA)	Adkisson, Kelsey (OR)	Daniels, Betsy (Triangle Associates) <i>Day</i>
Hennessey, Jennifer (WA)	Lilly, Laura (CA)	Furfey, Rosemary (NOAA)
McIntyre, Kim (WCGA)	Villareal, Marisa (CA)	Hansen, John (NOAA)
Smyth, Becky (NOAA)		Lohrman, Bridgette (EPA)
Snow, Patty (OR)		McCovey, Shaunna (Point 97)
Wall, Kris (NOAA)		Rocha, Megan (Smith River Rancheria)
		Steele, Will (NOAA) <i>Day 2 only</i>

Joined Remotely:

Doherty, Tim (NOAA)
Hostler, Jacque (Trinidad Rancheria)
Johnson, Sam (Seafloor Mapping ACT)
Lunde, Becky (NOAA)
Ruffo, Susan (CEQ)
Vierra, Amy (CA)
Ziegler, Sam (EPA)